

Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Vice President Bunting. The following members of the State Board were present: Nina Lou Bunting, Vice President; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., G. Patrick Heffernan, Barbara B. Rutt, and Dr. Terry M. Whittaker. Secretary of Education Susan S. Bunting was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, was also present.

The agenda was approved as amended. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt and seconded by Dr. Whittaker to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The minutes of the Board's regular meeting of February 16, 2017 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the minutes of the Board's regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried by voice vote. Mrs. Rutt abstained.

Public Comment

No individuals signed up to address the Board for Public Comment.

Committee Reports and Executive Director's Update

Board members highlighted their monthly activities. Multiple Board members attended the Board's Retreat, its special meeting and the meeting of the Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee. Mrs. Bunting also attended the State Teacher of the Year Annual Conference and a leadership class at Indian River High School.

Ms. Johnson noted the news articles and information posted under the Executive Director's report. She also highlighted the National Association of State Boards of Education Legislative Conference which was held in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the Council of Chief State School Officers' Conference. Delaware team members met with Delaware's Congressional members and their staff.

Ms. Johnson was also a member of the Delaware team and attended the NTEP conference. The Board also received an update by Ms. Johnson on its partnership with the United Way on a grade level reading campaign.

Change to State Board of Education Public Comment Policy

Mrs. Bunting noted that the Board discussed changing its public comment policy to move the public comment period to the end of the meeting. At the JLOSC meeting on Tuesday it was requested that the Board further review its public comment policy and submit additional information to the committee. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to table the proposed changes to the public comment policy until further review and discussion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Bunting stated that she has participated with the Governor in the Budget Reset meetings with the public as the State has a 385.6M budget shortfall. She stated that Governor would be releasing his budget later in the day. Dr. Bunting has also been attending GEAR meetings, a meeting with the New Castle County Vocational Technical Board, the retreat of the Delaware Chief School Officers Association and the P-20 Council meeting. The Board also received a quick update on Financial Literacy. Draft standards will be reviewed by the Committee and the Board will receive updates.

Educators as Catalysts Showcase Teacher Leader Pilot

Jon Neubauer from the Teacher Leader and Effectiveness Branch explained that the Teacher Leader Pilot provides career ladder opportunities and compensation to educators who want to serve in Teacher Leadership roles within their schools and also still work directly with students in the classroom. Eight schools are currently participating in the pilot and represent districts and charters in Grades K-12. Robyn Howton, AVID Coordinator and English Department Chair at Mount Pleasant High School, Dr. Matthew Donovan, Principal at Middletown High School and Dr. John Tanner, Instructional Coach and English Teacher Leader at Appoquinimink High School highlighted their personal experiences in the pilot.

ESSA Update

Mrs. Bunting noted that the State Board has discussed the State ESSA plan at multiple meetings and based on the Board's review of the plan the Board wished to submit formal comments on the State ESSA Plan. Mrs. Rutt read the Board's comments from its review on March 13 and it was noted that these comments will be compiled into a formal letter and submitted to the Secretary in writing.

Karen Field Rogers, Amelia Hodges and Candice Brooks provided a brief update. It was noted that the new template had been received from the U.S. Department of Education along with three additional questions. The Department is currently performing a final review.

A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan that the State Board direct its Executive Director to compile and provide the Secretary of Education with the Board's written comments based on comments as read by Mrs. Rutt as the Board's official position on the State ESSA Plan. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Graduation and Dropout Rate Annual Report

Karen Field Rogers and Lindsay Lewis presented the annual report for the Graduation and Dropout rate. For 2015-16, 8,353 of the 9,867 students in the four year cohort graduated at the end of the school year presenting a graduation rate of 84.7%. This is an increase from last year's

rate of 84.3%. The Board was also presented with the five year cohort rate and the six year rate as well as percentages by subgroups.

The dropout rate is calculated as prescribed by the National Center for Educational Statistics. For 2015-16, grades 9-12, 547 of the 40,287 students enrolled dropped out of school during the year which calculates to a dropout rate of 1.4%. This is a decrease from last year's rate of 2.2%.

The Board recessed from 2:31 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Department Regulations

Tina Shockey presented the Department regulation for discussion before the Board today.

Regulation 932 –Military Connected Youth – For Discussion

Regulation 932 is being amended to expand and clarify the meaning of “Recently Retired” to include those individuals identified as a disabled veteran and those killed in action. Specifically, this amendment is in response to inquiries received from those completing the form during the first year of implementation. This regulation will be presented for action next month. Debbie Stover from the Department was present and responded to questions from the Board.

It was noted that there were also regulations for the Board's information that only require approval by the Secretary of Education.

Charter Schools

Denise Stouffer presented the Charter items to the State Board and included welcoming Pat Grant to the Charter Office. The Board also received information on Performance Framework Trainings for school leaders and school boards as well as scheduled site visits to charter schools in the state.

Professional Standards Board

Chris Kenton, Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board, presented the agenda items for the Professional Standards Board.

Regulation 1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License – For Discussion

This regulation shall apply to the Issuance and Renewal of a Continuing License, pursuant to 14 Del. C. § 1211 and 14 Del. C. § 1212. It is necessary to review and amend this regulation to comply with Code changes based around Provisional Licensure.

Regulation 1512 Issuance and Renewal of Advance License – For Discussion

This regulation shall apply to the Issuance and Renewal of an Advanced License, pursuant to 14 Del. C. § 1213 and 14 Del. C. § 1214. It is necessary to review and amend this regulation to comply with Code changes based around Provisional Licensure.

These regulations will be placed on the Board's agenda next month for action.

Ms. Johnson noted that the ICT Annual Report was included in the Board's agenda for their information. Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the Department stated that Secretary Bunting need to be excused due to a prior commitment and that Karen Field Rogers was granted the authority to serve on her behalf as the Deputy Secretary of Education.

Appeals and Reviews – Executive Session

A.S. – STMA v. Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association - 2016-05 For Action

A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan that the State Board go into Executive Session for the purposes of considering this student appeal and the student's pupil file. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board took a brief recess and entered into Executive Session at 2:55 p.m.

Deputy Attorney General Patricia Davis provided the State Board with the appropriate information on the appeal.

The Board returned to open session at 3:04 p.m.

A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to accept the proposed Decision and Order of the Hearing Office and adopt it as the State Board's Decision. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board signed the appropriate Order.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary and
Secretary of Education

Appeals and Reviews – Executive Session

A.S. – STMA v. Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association - 2016-05 For Action

Since school disciplinary matters are confidential the Board entered into Executive Session pursuant to 29 *Del. C.* § 10004(b)(7). The motion was made by Mr. Heffernan, seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously. The Board went into Executive Session at 2:55 p.m. The Board discussed the appeal with Ms. Davis. The Deputy Attorney General assigned to the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association was present.

Patricia Davis, Deputy Attorney General highlighted the appeal item. She also advised the SBE that this executive session was being recorded since there were exceptions and comments filed with the Board after the parties had received the proposed decision of the Hearing Officer. The SBE discussed the matter.

Upon motion, the Board returned to open session at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary and
Secretary of Education